

REMARKS

This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Final Office Action dated December 1, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Summary of Rejections

Claims 1-35 were pending at the time of the Final Office Action.

Claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suaez (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,789).

Summary of Response

Claims 1-4, 7, 11-14, 17, 21-24, 27, and 31-34 were amended.

Claims 5-6, 8-10, and 34 were canceled.

Claims 15-16, 18-20, 25-26, and 28-30 remain as originally submitted.

Claims 36-41 are new.

Remarks and Arguments are provided below.

Summary of Claims Pending

Claims 1-4, 7, 11-34, and 36-41 are currently pending following this response.

Interview on March 15, 2007

Applicant thanks Examiner Winter for his time in discussing the outstanding rejections on March 15, 2007. In the interview, Examiner Winter indicated that the

arguments presented in the response after the Final Rejection filed on January 29, 2007 were not deemed persuasive. In particular, Examiner Winter indicated that the claim limitations to “transform data from the format of the front-office applications to a common data format” and to “transform business objects ... into data requests compatible with a back-office system” may broadly be interpreted to be taught by the Suarez reference. In an effort to advance prosecution of the application, Applicant discussed various amendments to the claims with Examiner Winter. A brief discussion of the amendments presented herein follows.

Response to Rejection

In the Final Office Action dated December 1, 2006, Claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suarez (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,789).

Applicant asserts that the grounds of rejection previously presented are moot in light of the amendments. The instant disclosure is directed to an enterprise integration layer that supports the integration of front-office and back-office systems for data and services. Paragraphs 0057 and 0058 of the present disclosure describe two use-case examples of the implementation of the enterprise integration layer for providing data access and service invocation, respectively. In particular, the enterprise integration layer includes an enterprise object model that defines an object oriented representation of the data and services provided by the back-office systems as described in paragraphs 0043 and 0044.

Front-office applications may access the objects in the enterprise object model through standardized client access interfaces that enable standardized access to back-office data and services through a plurality of different technologies as disclosed in paragraph 0040 and 0051. Upon accessing an object in the enterprise object model, the business object server implements the data functions and service methods associated with the object by performing object assembly, object disassembly, and service invocation functions, as described in paragraphs 0048-0050.

A set of adaptors may be used to map between the enterprise object model and the back-office systems data and services as described in paragraphs 0044 and 0046. The enterprise integration layer also includes a rules engine that defines and stores rules regarding criteria for when to publish the business events and rules regarding transforming data from a common format to a format of the back-office systems as disclosed in paragraph 0045.

The enterprise integration layer further includes a business event repository that contains definitions of the business events that are of interest to a plurality of the computing applications and also identifies all of the publishers for each of the business events as disclosed in paragraph 0046. Also, paragraphs 0063 through 0065 of the present disclosure describe a process for a source computing application to make a target computing application aware of a business event. The claims have been amended herein to further clarify these and other aspects of the present disclosure.

Applicant again asserts that terms in the claims must be afforded their art-recognized accepted meaning consistent with applicant's use of the term.

MPEP 2173.05(a)(III) states:

"In applying the prior art, the claims should be construed to encompass all definitions that are consistent with applicant's use of the term. See *Tex. Digital Sys., Inc. v. Telegenix, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1193, 1202, 64 USPQ2d 1812, 1818 (Fed. Cir. 2002). It is appropriate to compare the meaning of terms given in technical dictionaries in order to ascertain the accepted meaning of a term in the art. In re Barr, 444 F.2d 588, 170 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1971). >See also MPEP § 2111.01.<"

In particular, the terms "server", "front office systems", and "back-office systems" as used in the claims are terms of the art as would be recognized by one skilled in the art. These terms are specifically used in the claims to further define the structural architecture of the claimed system. One skilled in the art will recognize that the claimed architecture is directed to a client-server architecture where front-office (sometimes referred to as a front-end or client-side) systems issue requests for data or services to back-office (sometimes referred to as back-end or server-side) systems. As recited in the claims, these requests are made through an integration layer (sometimes referred to as middleware).

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 21-0765, Sprint.

Respectfully submitted,



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